



**Laurelhurst Community Center
Expansion Project
PAT meeting
July 11, 2005**

Meeting Notes

PAT members present: Nate Benjamin, Christine Barrett, Alan Hovland, Joe Herrin, Kathleen Herbert, Susan Zoccola.

Guests present: Kelly Noonan

Staff Present: Karen Lynch, Parks Public Relations Specialist; Dan Johnson, Parks Project Manager; David Yim, Community Center coordinator; Catherine Hart and Danielle Anderson, VIA Suzuki; Joan Peterson, Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs.

Welcome and Introductions – Dan Johnson

Project Art Concepts – Susan Zoccola

Susan brought the group up to date on her recent work in finalizing the design for entry art. Her seed pod/leaf concept which was most popular with the group in an earlier presentation, is the basis for her design. She described visiting the site while developing her concept and being inspired by the park's natural beauty. This design is intended to enhance the surroundings and reflect the natural setting, not to "copy it" or compete with it. She wanted to create a "light"-feeling sculpture for this spot.

Susan showed a drawing of the design, which will be located in the parking "island". The drawing did not include the existing light pole since it will be removed during construction.

Susan's entry art will be a tapered pole, bent over at the top; ideally it will be a lighted pole.

The pods are intended to hang from both sides of the pole in a non-symmetrical manner – and at a height that visible but also will be vandal-proof. Susan is also considering a faceted pole, which is more difficult to climb.

Susan brought a photo of an illuminated pole /artwork at the Seattle Center to give a general idea of how a lighted pole could look. Lighting it from inside is more expensive -- however if the budget will allow that is her preference. She and Joan Peterson are researching these costs.

If fiber optic lighting is found to be feasible, Susan would like to create a subtle color shift as well; the pole would change slightly but only in the yellow/green color family or in similar shades. The fiber optic potential cannot be decided until both initial cost and maintenance costs are researched further.

Catherine Hart mentioned that there are no changes planned for external lighting on the front of the existing building.

Dave Yim is in favor a lighted entry-art pole.

Approximate size: Probably 18-20 feet, with the “arms” starting at about 12 feet; the seed pods will be approximately 6-9 feet in size.

Kinetic aspect: Susan’s idea is to attach the seed pods with some type of swivel. She is investigating the possible affects of wind and will adjust the attachment mechanism used accordingly. The question came up of having an engineer review. Dan and Catherine will ensure the engineering requirements for this art are taken care of (safe / secure / weather-predictable) so that Susan can focus on the design and manufacturing aspects.

Concrete base: Dan plans to include the base for the artwork in the project budget, so the contractor sees it as part of the overall work; this is more efficient. It will also save a bit of the art budget, which is much smaller than the project dollars. Dan can also make sure the concrete is done correctly. Currently a concrete block sitting below grade, with landscaping all around it, is planned.

A comment was made that if the concrete base ends up sitting above the ground, it’s best to use a higher grade concrete to avoid detracting from the integrity of the pole.

The group stood at the proposed location to discuss exact location of the pole, to be ultimately decided by Susan. (The pods will be set up to subtly “point” visitors toward front door.)

Joan Peterson explained that Susan’s design will be reviewed by committee on July 19 at a public art meeting and can then become final, though there can be resulting changes. After this review process is complete, the design can be posted to the project webpage.

The PAT enthusiastically approved the design.

Review of Building Design: Dan and Catherine

Dan explained that the project is ready to begin the Construction Documents phase. In September, Via Suzuki will present a 65% construction package for internal review and written comments from Parks and other city staff.

In October a 95% construction package will be presented; it goes to Public Works Contracting for review. Then the project can go out to bid in, or by, December.

When the construction portion of the Pro Parks Levy Funding becomes available in January '06, Dan will be ready to proceed.

Catherine reviewed most of the rooms in the most current floor plan, and on renderings of what the interiors are likely to appear like. The finishes in these rooms are not yet "final" -- there are still decisions to be made given the budget.

Highlights of spaces discussed:

The "future activity room" downstairs will be a bid additive. The doors to this space in prior designs are now relocated: making it a slightly bigger room.

This design allows for more potential storage. There could now be room to store a walk-behind floor cleaner, which the staff would like to have.

This design shows a better location for the dumpsters.

The vending machines, drinking fountain, and phone will be tucked behind a wall to screen them from immediate view as people enter the CC.

Multipurpose room: In this design, the ceiling is curved, made of an acoustical material and used a series of beams to create the curved effect. Lighting can be located within the beams.

The new addition will feature a lot of open space; potential for using glass panels on some of the rooms -- this was discussed and the issue was raised of children possibly running into a transparent material and the maintenance of cleaning it often. This idea will receive further thought.

In particular, glass panels are planned for the break-out space partly to bring in more light. There may be ways to resolve the maintenance and other issues by choosing the right material.

Via Suzuki hopes to use mounted lighting, and achieve the effect of indirect lighting in interiors.

A comment was made about lighting in the existing building -- which will become the Fireplace (FP) room -- Joe Herrin suggested either using an attractive new acoustical tile on the ceiling of that room, or possibly soften the visual effect with certain types of lighting such as hanging globes. This might have a better effect than the existing "can" lights.

Catherine will consider all these ideas, and has not yet made all the decisions about finishes in the existing building. The PAT felt that finishes in the existing building should be somewhat comparable to the new addition, within the limits of the budget and Landmarks Board criteria.

Kitchen (which will be located in the existing building): A discussion about whether it can be made more accessible for teaching cooking classes, as well as being ideal as a catering kitchen. Catherine will check on this.

Other changes to the FP room (existing building) include restoring the existing wood floor, and removing the divider wall. Most of the finishes currently in the room will stay, and be repaired.

Exterior finishes were discussed again. (The second story of the new addition will be a stained wood. PAT members encouraged the architects to continue looking for any way that the exterior of the addition can have any sort of brick treatment. Currently the material favored for its first floor is a split-face block in a buff color with irregular sizing,

Catherine reminded the group that the finishes are somewhat guided by the Landmarks Board criteria for adding on to a historically-designated building. Her next step is to look more closely at the exterior finishes and material options.

Closure of the Community Center – Dan and Dave Yim

A closure notice has been written and will appear in the CC's fall brochure and posted on the center's main webpage. Since Kerry Lasko has retired, Dave will as soon as possible bring the new manager Lori Chisholm up to speed about the efforts to relocate programming.

The center will officially close on December 1. Dan stated that since this is during the holiday season, it might be possible to adjust this date slightly to allow one or two special events to take place, but closure will take place in December to allow preparation of the site for construction.

Special thank you to the Laurelhurst Advisory Council

Dan thanked the Advisory Council for all their valuable assistance including the provision of additional funding for the project. When the center is reopened in winter 2006, there will be a special plaque of recognition installed.

Dan also mentioned that he will take "progress photos" of the construction, once underway in '06, and post them regularly to the project webpage so the PAT and community can watch the changes take place. He will investigate the possibility of a webcam onsite, too.

Next Steps:

Dan noted that the design drawings and meeting notes would be posted on the project webpage.

Adjourned - 8 p.m.